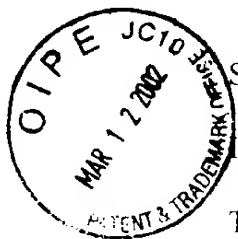


## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Serial No.: 09/661,902

Group Art Unit: 1724

Inventors: Ding et al

Filed: 9/14/2000

Title: POLYIMIDE GAS SEPARATION  
MEMBRANES

Examiner: Spitzer

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED  
MAR 14 2002  
TC 1700

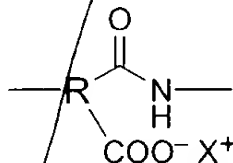
OFFICIAL AMENDMENT

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 13, 2001.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 18, 24, 25 and 28 as follows:

Sub B12  
1. (Once amended) A polyimide article formed from a polyamic acid salt precursory article by thermal or chemical imidization, wherein said polyamic acid salt precursory article is formed from a casting solution containing from 0.01% to 20 % by volume of tertiary amines or water, wherein said polyamic acid salt precursor contains the following radicals:



wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic, alicyclic, heterocyclic, or aliphatic radical; and

X is an ammonium ion, a phosphonium ion, a sulfonium ion, a protonated tertiary amine or a quaternary amine or a mixture thereof.

6. (Once amended) The fluid separation membrane of claim 2 wherein X is a protonated tertiary amine, tetraalkylammonium or ammonia.

Sub C27  
7. (Once amended) The fluid separation membrane of claim 6, wherein said protonated tertiary amine is protonated trimethylamine, protonated triethylamine,